

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 00193 031207Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00

IO-10 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W

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R 031145Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 433

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 193

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, WB, US, UK, FR, GE

SUBJECT: PANAM-BA BERLIN ROUTE-SWAP PROPOSAL

REF: USBERLIN 179

1. IT OCCURS TO US THAT FROM UK-BA POINT OF VIEW, CURRENT PROPOSAL, WHICH CLEARLY DUE TO BRITISH INITIATIVE, MAY BE RELATED INDIRECTLY TO THEIR DECEMBER REQUEST THAT WE HELP THEM EXTRACT MORE MONEY FROM FRG TO SUPPORT IGS OPERATIONS. DURING DECEMBER 18 DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON, HIBBERT SEEMED CURIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT FRG WOULD COME ACROSS WITH MORE, A VIEW NO U.S. PARTICIPANT SHARED. WAY IN WHICH PRESENT PROPOSAL MIGHT ENABLE UK-BA COME OUT RELATIVELY SATISFACTORILY EITHER WAY COULD BE AS FOLLOWS: IF ROUTE-SWAP PROPOSAL EVOKES SERIOUS BERLIN-FRG OPPOSITION, OR USG OPPOSITION FOR THAT MATTER, UK POSITION WIL PROBABLY BE THAT FRG CANNOT HAVE IT BOTH WAYS. IF IT WISHES SEE CONTINUED TWO-AIRLINE SERVICE TO ALL IGS POINTS, FRG WILL HAVE TO PAY MORE. IF NOT, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 USBERL 00193 031207Z

ECONOMIC FACTS OF LIFE COMPEL RATIONALIZATION MEASURES

WHICH AMOUNT TO PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL BY BOTH AIRLINES FROM IGS. WE HAVE NEVER BELIEVED AND DO NOT NOW BELIEVE THAT BA WILL GIVE UP BERLIN ENTIRELY. PROPOSAL MAY OF COURSE BE MOTIVATED SIMPLY BY POST-DECEMBER BRITISH READING THAT ADDITIONAL SUBSIDIES FROM FRG ARE SIMPLY NON-NEGOTIABLE, AND THAT THERE IS LITTLE POINT IN WASTING TOO MUCH TIME OR EFFORT TRYING FOR THEM, I.E, THEY MAY NOW BE MORE NEARLY OF OUR VIEW THAN THEY WERE IN DECEMBER.

2. FOREGOIN IS ONLY SPECULATION AND DOES NOT LEAD US TO ANY RECOMMENDATION. WE WOULD HOWEVER BE INTERESTED KNOW IF ADDRESSEES PICK UP ANY INDICATION BRITISH ARE THINKING OF CURRENT PROPOSAL AS RELATED IN SOME WAY TO EARLIER REQUEST FOR U.S. HELP WITH FRG. GEORGE

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